

Nicaragua



Catholics

Catholic clergy and laypeople face severe repression in Nicaragua. The government of Nicaragua arbitrarily imprisons clergy on bogus national security charges, eliminates Church-affiliated organizations, and places restrictions on religious observances. Catholics also endure hate speech, and clergy are often denied entry back into the country.

Journalists Covering Religious News

The Nicaraguan government does not respect the freedom of the press and targets journalists whose reporting is perceived to threaten the regime. While journalists reporting on any topic are susceptible to harassment, those who cover religious issues are especially at risk.



Rolando Álvarez

RELIGION OR BELIEF:

Catholic

ARRESTED:

August 19, 2022

SENTENCE:

26 Years' Imprisonment

RELIGIOUS LEADER: Yes

REASON FOR PERSECUTION:

Criticizing religious freedom conditions



Victor Ticay

RELIGION OR BELIEF:

Unspecified

ARRESTED:

April 6, 2023

SENTENCE:

8 Years' Imprisonment

REASON FOR PERSECUTION:

Recording a banned Easter celebration and posting the footage online



Fernando Zamora Silva

RELIGION OR BELIEF:

Catholic

ARRESTED:

July 9, 2023

RELIGIOUS LEADER: Yes

REASON FOR PERSECUTION:

Religious leadership role amid crackdown on Roman Catholic Church



Jaime Iván Montesinos Saucedo

RELIGION OR BELIEF:

Catholic

ARRESTED:

May 23, 2023

RELIGIOUS LEADER: Yes

REASON FOR PERSECUTION:

Religious leadership role amid crackdown on Roman Catholic Church

ForB Victims List Stats 15 out of 2,125

Religion or Belief	# of Victims
Catholic	14
Unspecified	1
Total	15

Type of Abuse	# of Victims
Imprisoned	10
Detained	5
Total	15

Average Prison Sentence 11 Years, 9 Months

Reports of	# of Victims
Torture	0
Medical Neglect	0
Total	0

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Frank R. Wolf FoRB Victims List Background

The International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (IRFA), as amended by the Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act of 2016, requires USCIRF to:

make publicly available, to the extent practicable...lists of persons it determines are imprisoned or detained, have disappeared, been placed under house arrest, been tortured, or subjected to forced renunciation of faith for their religious activity or religious freedom advocacy by the government of a foreign country that the Commission recommends for designation as a country of particular concern [CPC]...or by a nonstate actor that the Commission recommends for designation as an entity of particular concern [EPC].

USCIRF developed the Frank R. Wolf Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) Victims List—an online public database—to implement this provision for countries USCIRF recommends for Country of Particular Concern (CPC) or Special Watch List (SWL) status. The list also includes such victims located in the de facto territories of nonstate actors that USCIRF recommends for Entity of Particular Concern (EPC) status, according to the same criteria.

Due to limited resources, USCIRF is unable to identify and document all victims that meet the statutory requirement to be included on the FoRB Victims List and generally relies on receiving submissions from outside individuals and organizations. As such, the information contained in the database does not reflect country, regional, or global trends. Furthermore, percentages highlighted in this section should not be used for extrapolation purposes nor interpreted as a particular group experiencing greater violations than another or a particular country committing violations at a greater rate than others. To support this project, USCIRF invites those with credible information on victims to submit information using the Victims List Intake Form at www.uscifr.gov/form/uscifr-victims-list-intake-form.

FoRB Victims List Stats Overall

Perpetrator	Victims Documented
Algeria	5
Azerbaijan	11
Burma	5
China	770
Cuba	11
Egypt	18
Eritrea	50
Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS)	2
Houthis	3
India	55
Indonesia	8
Iran	339
Iraq	2
Islamic State in West Africa Province (ISWAP)	1
Kazakhstan	15
Malaysia	4
Nicaragua	15
Nigeria	9
North Korea	9
Pakistan	90
Russia	449
Saudi Arabia	46
Sri Lanka	1
Tajikistan	13
Turkmenistan	30
Uzbekistan	87
Vietnam	77
Total	2,125

Religion or Belief	Victims Documented
Adivasi	1
Baha'i	163
Bon	1
Buddhist – Hoa Hao	6
Buddhist – Theravada	3
Buddhist – Tibetan	76
Buddhist – Unspecified/Other	28
Christian – Catholic	46
Christian – Church of Almighty God	236
Christian – Jehovah's Witness	258
Christian – Orthodox	17
Christian – Protestant	130
Christian – Unspecified/Other	66
Duong Van Minh	4
ECKist (Eckankar)	1
Erfan-e Halgheh Practitioner	2
Falun Gong	213
Hindu	10
Humanist	1
Jewish	1
Muslim – Ahmadiyya	23
Muslim – Qur'anist	1
Muslim – Shi'a	39
Muslim – Sufi	63
Muslim – Sunni	385
Muslim – Unspecified/Other	237
Santeria	5
Scientologist	1
Shaman	1
Sikh	1
Yarsani	37
Unknown/Unspecified	69
Total	2,125

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Not Released

Eugenio Rodríguez Benavides
Fernando Zamora Silva
Jaime Iván Montesinos Saucedo
Leonardo Guevara Gutiérrez
Rolando Álvarez
Victor Ticay

Released

Enrique Martínez
Darvin Leiva
José Luis Díaz
Melkin Sequeira
Oscar Benavidez
Raúl Antonio Vega
Ramiro Tijerino
Sadiel Eugarríos
Sergio Cárdenas